



Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Children's Trust Fund of Washington

The Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (WCPCAN) is the only state agency solely dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect. Through partnerships, public awareness, building and sharing a knowledge base and providing resources, WCPCAN serves as a multiplying force to help everyone in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

What we do:

- Invest in community-based prevention programs with high potential to deliver, measure and document desired outcomes
- Increase public awareness and understanding of child abuse and neglect
- Provide knowledge and tools for more effective practice, programs and policies
- Leverage resources through partnerships, collaborations and the marketing of items like the Heirloom Birth Certificate and the "Keep Kids Safe" Special License Plate

Who we are:

- WCPCAN is an independent agency under the Office of the Governor and the state's resource on child abuse and neglect prevention for more than 20 years
- WCPCAN has the benefit of a 14-member Council comprised of seven citizen members appointed by the Governor; three members designated by the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; and four members of the Legislature, two each from the House and Senate
- WCPCAN is uniquely structured to maximize accountability, system integration, policy linkage and the ability to attract private sector investment
- WCPCAN was the first state agency in the nation solely dedicated to child abuse and neglect prevention, both setting the standard in the field while leading the way for innovation in practice
- WCPCAN is the only Washington State recipient of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Grant from the Federal government
- WCPCAN is highly valued by the community-based agencies we assist. As one said: "I know of no other funding source that offers the technical assistance and resources that WCPCAN provides. The support and responsiveness is exceptional."

What we know:

- Child abuse and neglect are preventable
- In this state, for every \$1 spent on child abuse and neglect prevention, \$321 is spent on after-the-fact services like foster care and treatment
- Child abuse prevention strategies that emphasize both the developmental needs of children and the importance of community-based supports for families provide a clear example of how we can close the gap between science and practice for our most vulnerable young children.

Prevention Priorities



WCPCAN has the expertise to lead the way to strengthen the Washington State policies, programs, practices and partnerships that protect children. Investing limited state resources wisely now with an eye to the long term will strengthen families, promote optimal child development and reduce the huge public costs related to the consequences of child abuse and neglect.